YOUNG PEOPLE'S DEPARTMENT.

THE SUCCESS OF THE CHAPTER! HOW ACHIEVED.

BY LOUIS S. BAUMAN

A paper read to the Epworth League District Convention, which assembled at Leavenworth, Kansas, last August. Let our own societies in the Brethren church read it, and benefit by it.

It is hardly necessary to use our valuable time here, in the discussion of this subject, since when all parts are taken separately, the entire subject must be discussed. Excuse me then; dear Leaguers, for my brevity.

We might say that success depends upon the kind of officers we have, yet not solely. We might say that success lies in well conducted cabinet meetings, yet not solely. We might say that success in the chapter arises from entertainment in entertainment. Yet not solely.

Success in a chapter of our League depends upon the hearty co operation of its members in the cause for which the Nazarene of old suffered and died, the cause of God. Our League is a temple being built to feed the hungry souls around us. It is to be a temple so mighty and so grand that Father Time himself will never see the last nail driven, and each individual member is a workman. Precious thoughts are building it; love is building it; faith is building it. Up and up the mighty structure is being reared. Yet, the entire frame is resting upon the grasp of the hand between brother and brother. The hands parting and it falls, forever falls. One member must not sit back and allow another to do his work. Each member must arouse to his own duty. He must do his best, more than which angels cannot do. And when a chapter has all its members united and doing their best, we have a successful chapter.

Again, sometimes we Leaguers cannot see at once the benefits of our work, and feel like giving up entirely. Yes, how often has that mighty demon stalked grim and bare into the doors of our beloved Leagues. The giant discouragement, is one of satan's best vice-president, and he is sure to visit us. We must either conquer or die. God has placed weapons into our hands, Christians, for every foe we meet. What has He given us to conquer discouragment?

"Rome was not built in a day." nor does result come before effort. Time alone can tell us what we are. And if good does not come our way at once let us labor on with patience and enthusiasm. These two are indispensable and invincible for every chapter of our League.

The success of the chapter? Success! What is success? Would we know it if we would see it? Now there are a great many times we think we are successful, when we are not. There is such a thing as church popularity. That is, there are certain classes of people who go to church simply because it is popular. Likewise do they come to our Leagues. And I fear we have chapters that have large attendances, that give neat sums of money to the work, that meet to sing and speak and have good social times, at the same time wondering at their grand success. But it is the succes of popularity, not of soul saving. Can they give an account of one soul really saved by them? If they cannot, *they are a failure.* Success in the Epworth League depends solely upon the work it is doing in the line of soul salvation. And though your chapter may be small, dear Epworth Leagues, though you may be laboring under many disadvantages, if you have caused some soul to cease to shudder at the approaching day, you have been successful. "He that saveth a soul from death, hideth a multitude of sins." The object, the sole object of the Epworth League chapter *is*, or *should be* in the salvation of dying souls. And, O, if we but look about us, what a mighty work we have to do. See the little Arabs of the street—going—where? See the thousands falling around us—lost! What can we do to help them? There is only one way and that is the secret of the successful chapter. Work! Never weary, never rest. They are falling and we must do. "There is a time to fiddle but not when Rome is burning." Let each individual member have some work to do for there are those that must *do* or *die*, and God knows there is plenty for each to do.

To complete all, let us pray. Prayer is "the power behind the throne." What a precious promise it is, "Ask and ye shall receive." No earnest prayer goes into the heart of God, and remains unanswered.

And now, Epworth Leaguers, I have in as few words as possible given you my main thoughts as to success in our Leagues. You may notice that they are all old to you. You have heard them before. Have you obeyed them? A grand world this would be if Truth were our guiding angel. And now, Leaguers, another year is before you. Before your Maker, you should do your best to make the coming year the most successful in the wonderful history of the League. You are living in a time when your living is worth a life. This is the golden age of opportunity. For,

"We are living, we are dwelling,
In a grand and awful time,
In an age on ages telling,—
To be living is sublime."

Morrill, Kansas.

Childrens Department.

NEEDMORE PENN., April 11th, 1894

DEAR EDITOR:—I will try and write another letter for the Evangelist. I like to read the children's letters. Our school is out. Last Sunday I was to preaching at 10 o'clock and in the afternoon at cross-road to preaching at 4 o'clock; the house was full. Mr. Dunkee is our preacher. I see the Evangelist is full of letters so I will close for this time by asking a question. Which is the shortest chapter in the New Testament?

CARL MALOTTE.

MEXICO, IND., April 12th, 1894.

DEAR EDITOR AND CHILDREN:—I am going to write a story about Joseph. He was Israel's boy. Israel loved Joseph more than his other sons because he was the son of his old age and he was the best boy. And Israel made him a coat of many colors. His Brethren sold him to the Ishmaelites. His Brethren dyed his coat in the blood of a kid and gave it to his father to make him believe that an animal had killed him. Who asked Pilate for Christ's body?

Good-by,
INEZ FISHER.

BRISTOL, IND., March 25th, 1894.

DEAR FDITOR:—I wrote about a month ago, and my letter has not been published yet. But I expect to see it in the paper next week. I am ten years old. Preacher Erwin from Elkhart, has been holding meetings here at our school house this winter. Last Sunday he baptized two. He has now gone to Arkansas. I am going to tend the Mennonite Sabbath school. If my letter is published I will write again.

Good-by,
EDNA STUTSMAN.